



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Telephone/Fax 01752 225420
Website: <https://www.holycross.plymouth.sch.uk/web>
Email: holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk
Headteacher: Mrs F Gill
Newsletter No. 5: 1st October 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for supporting Go Green for CAFOD today by sending your children into school wearing green - it actually felt a bit like St Patrick's Day to me! Your generous contributions were gratefully received!
Next week is World Mental Health Day and on Friday 8th October, we would like everyone to wear a little (or a lot) of yellow to show our support for the mental health of our young people. **We are not expecting donations.**

From Monday, there will be further changes to the drop off and pick up arrangements.

Foundation Stage will remain the same. Please pick up at 3pm from the middle playground. **Please drop off in the mornings at the main gate - the children will be taken in through the white door at the bottom of the playground.**

Year 5 and 6 will also remain the same with drop off and pick up from the top of the playground.

If your child is in Year 3/ 4, please pick them up from the white door at the bottom of the playground.

If your child is in Year 1 and 2, please pick them up from the middle playground.

Now that the summer is definitely over and the weather is becoming chillier, please make sure your child is wearing warm layers underneath their uniform as it is important to continue to ventilate the school as much as we can. The majority of children are wearing the agreed PE kit on PE days but we have noticed a gradual decline here. Plain navy or black tracksuits can be worn - no leggings; no logos. They should also wear either their school jumper/cardigan or a plain navy top to stay warm.

Following several enquiries, I thought it would be useful to revisit our expectations in terms of jewellery and hair. We are always so proud of how smart the children look.

Only plain, simple studs are allowed for health and safety reasons. These should be removed before coming to school on PE days or taped over as a minimum. Long hair should always be tied back with simple blue/navy hair accessories.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs F Gill
Headteacher



27th September-15th October

Year 5 Swimming

1st October

Black History Month begins

1st-6th October

Food Bank Collection

6th October

Walk to School Day

7th October

Harvest Mass
Cross country event 2
Details to follow

8th October

Wear Yellow for
Mental Health Day
MUFT

11-15th October

PANTS week

18th-22nd October

One World Week
(Focus on Laudato Si)

22nd October

Wear Red Day-Show
Racism the Red Card
MUFT



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Our Catholic Life –

In the Gospel this week some people try to bring their children to Jesus. The disciples shoo the children away but Jesus sees and is annoyed. He tells the disciples, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them.' Jesus explains that children can teach adults how to trust God and learn to love others, being part of God's kingdom. Jesus puts his arms around the children and blesses them. Our children can always teach us so much about how to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

We are collecting for the Plymouth Food Bank this week and will be taking what we have collected to the food bank on Friday 8th. Thank you for your donations so far.



Let us Pray

*Dear Jesus,
Please help us to stay friends with each other.
Please help them to know that God's love for
them will never end.
Amen*



On Tuesday we will celebrate our special Harvest Mass with Father Victor.



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Wonders of the Week

Here are this week's winners of the Wonder of the Week award.



Julia Donaldson: Murphy for being inspired by his peers when choosing his own learning and then persevering to make improvements to his creation.

Allan Ahlberg: Meeya for trying her best and writing simple captions independently.

Simon James: Ollie: For working hard at staying focused in class and working independently during the week. Great effort!

Judith Kerr: Lund: For super effort this week and impressing us all with his focus and writing.

David Walliams: Melody for her enthusiasm for learning.

Cressida Cowell: Awaab for showing great enthusiasm for our new writing unit and working very hard with his handwriting. Well done!

Roald Dahl: Mason for his incredible writing in English

Louis Sachar: Olivia - for outstanding effort and application whilst writing a biography - sheer determination to succeed.

Emma Carroll: Saffron for grasping the melody in music, playing in time and then helping her peers to succeed.

Malorie Blackman: Evan - for his excellent biography homework and his wonderful biography writing in class.

Gospel Values Awards: This week we have all been trying to show LOVE

Julia Donaldson: Iris for showing love towards her friends.

Allan Ahlberg: Kitty for showing love to her friend who was upset. **Simon James:** Miki for constantly showing love to his school family and being a supportive friend to everyone.

Judith Kerr: Ruby for always showing love to her friends and teachers in Judith Kerr class.

David Walliams: Stephen for always sharing his love through kind words and sharing.

Cressida Cowell: Stefan for showing love through his actions to all the children and responding to what he hears through his actions. **Roald Dahl:** John-Paul for sharing his love and kindness with everyone in his class.

Louis Sachar: Anne shows genuine care and thoughtfulness for all around her.

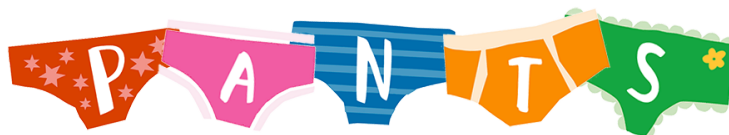
Emma Carroll: Harvey for showing love and kindness towards a child who was upset at lunchtime.

Malorie Blackman: Theresia for showing love for others through looking after those who are new, feeling upset or feeling lonely.



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This October we will be supporting Plymouth PANTS Week in school (w/b 11th October).

Through discussions and activities in class we will aim to teach our pupils important safety skills without giving explicit information or telling scary stories. We will be teaching our pupils the NSPCC's, Talk PANTS rules using the 'PANTS' acrostic, which is like a green cross code for staying safe from sexual abuse.

PANTS stands for:

- Privates are private
 - Always remember your body belongs to you
 - No means no
 - Talk about secrets that upset you
 - Speak up, someone can help
- If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's

PANTS campaign you can access a free parent webinar, available any time on demand via this link: <https://bit.ly/TalkPANTSwebinar>

Further information and advice is also available online at nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

SAFEGUARDING at Holy Cross

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected, valued, listened to, and in which their self-confidence grows. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice. Child protection forms part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities. The Child Protection and Safeguarding policy underpins and guides Holy Cross Catholic Primary School's procedures and protocols to ensure its pupils and staff are safe.

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, along with other key safeguarding documents are available on the school website under the Safeguarding tab.



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**FREE
SCHOOL
MEALS**
Information & Support



Free School Meals

We have sent home forms today with every child to encourage you to register for free school meals. Your family may be eligible if you receive one of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 they will already be entitled to Universal Free School Meals. However, it is essential that you register for FSM as this would raise important funds for the school. Eligibility could entitle your child to discounted costs for school based provisions such as school trips and music tuition.

Should you think that you may be eligible, please complete the form we sent home and return to the school office as soon as possible. Please add names of all siblings. If you are not sure about your eligibility, complete the form anyway and you will be informed as to whether you qualify or not.



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#HelloYellow

Friday, 8th October - help raise awareness of Mental Health

Dig out your neon socks, custard scarf and banana hat - let's show young people they're not alone with their mental health!

We all struggle with how we're feeling sometimes and it's normal to have ups and downs. This year might have felt a little more down than up. But it's the little things that have got us through it - the morning walks, singing in the shower, the perfect cuppa, that Netflix show that got us all buzzing, the bestie who makes you LOL, the teacher who has your back.

Saying #HelloYellow this World Mental Health Day is a little thing we can do to make a BIG difference to young people's mental health.

Because a little yellow goes a long way.



Catholic Children's Society Christmas Card Competition

Yes, it is a little early to be thinking about Christmas but some things need lots of forward planning - especially the Catholic Children's Society Christmas Card.

Every year, the CCS runs a competition to find the best children's Christmas card designs. The application is attached to the newsletter so please encourage your child to enter. We need bright, vibrant designs based on the birth of Jesus - a good tip is to keep the design as simple as possible.

Remember to stay within the box provided! Entries by Thursday 7th October please.



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Mindfulness Tour

On Friday 8th October, to help us to mark World Mental Health Day, we will be welcoming author, Rob Holmes, to Holy Cross. Rob is a Devon-based author and he will be sharing his books and leading mindfulness sessions with the children throughout the day.

On Monday, the children will bring home a flier with an opportunity to purchase Rob's books. There is absolutely no pressure whatsoever to purchase but should you want to do so, they are available to pre-order.



Master Owl's Mindfulness Tour

Hello, I am Devon based children's author Rob Holmes. I am excited to be visiting your children's school very soon, reading my Master Owl books and teaching mindfulness.

I am reading my Picture book '**Master Owl meets Miss Bunny**' to the Reception, Year 1, 2 & 3 children and a chapter from my new Young Reader paperback '**The Mindful Adventures of Master Owl**' to years 4, 5 & 6. *My books blend mindfulness with wisdom.*

SIGNED BOOKS: If you would like to pre-order the Master Owl books, I will bring the copies along, sign and dedicate them to each child who wants a book, on the day.
Normal retail prices are £6.99, but each book is **only £5** for schools.

Please fill in the form below and along with £5 in cash per book, pop in an envelope and hand back into the school reception, marked 'Master Owl book order'. *Thank you.*

Picture book

Recommended for 3 - 6 year olds



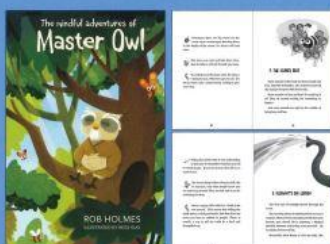
CHILD'S NAME

CLASS

WHO IS THE BOOK DEDICATED TO?

Young Reader book

Recommended for 7 - 11 year olds



CHILD'S NAME

CLASS

WHO IS THE BOOK DEDICATED TO?

WWW.ROBHOLMES.ORG



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Plymouth School Sports Partnership Cross Country Event 1

On Thursday, 36 wonderful year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children took part in the first Cross Country event held in nearly 2 years! The children overcame the wind, lashing rain and cool temperatures - all with smiling faces. The event comprised 4 races: yr 3 / 4 girls, yr 3 / 4 boys, yr 5 / 6 girls and year 5 / 6 boys. Every one of the children ran their collective socks off and even though they were wet, they cheered each other on. A huge thank you to all of the parents who also came along cheering and encouraging all.

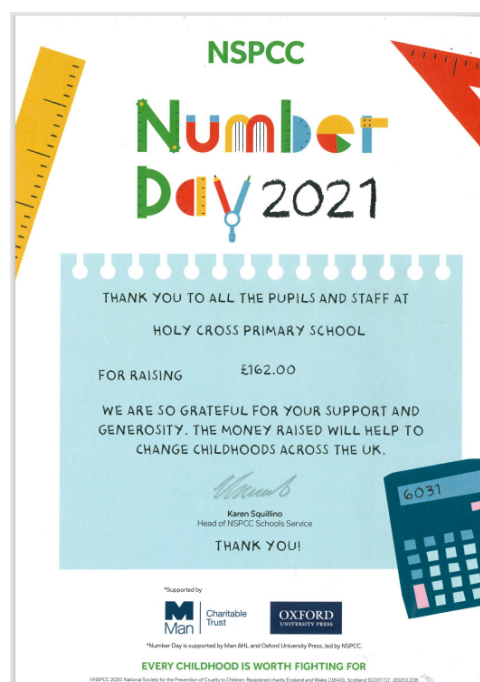
The next event will take place on **7th October at Eggbuckland CC**. This will be an after school event. Further details to follow.

Roald Dahl Class are loving their Ukulele lessons!



NSPCC Number Day 2021

Thank you! You may remember our NSPCC Number Day last year. We raised an amazing **£162.00** which will make a huge difference to the lives of children and young people right across the UK.





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COVID19 Information

As Lateral Flow Testing continues in schools and homes, could we remind you to report any positive results to covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk or to **ring the school office immediately**, with self-isolation taking place until a confirmatory PCR test result is received. If the PCR comes back negative, your child can return to school. If the PCR is positive, your child will need to isolate for the full ten days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the test is asymptomatic. Any positive PCR tests should also be shared with us along with the date of the positive test.

See flowchart for further explanation.

The guidance has now changed.

If a child or member of staff tests positive, NHS track and Trace will carry out contact tracing.

Close contacts will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace and advised appropriately.

If there is a positive case in school, we will inform the parents of the affected class **but** we will not do contact tracing or send whole classes home.

If not contacted by NHS Track and Trace, you can assume that your child has not been identified by them as a close contact.

However, we all know how closely children interact within the classroom so we would advise you to book a PCR test for your child when informed of a positive case in their class. They can continue to attend school whilst waiting for either the test or the result. If the PCR is positive, then they should isolate.

We would also advise you to be vigilant and to monitor your child for symptoms if informed of a positive case within their class. They should not attend school if they develop symptoms and should book a PCR test immediately.

Use this link to book: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

You should not take a **Lateral Flow Device** (LFD) test if you are symptomatic even if LFD testing is part of your routine. **LFD tests are for people who are asymptomatic** – i.e. not showing any symptoms. If you are not sure whether you have one or more of the symptoms then book a **PCR** test.

Please note that this applies to anyone in your household as well.

For further information on testing go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

If your child presents with a new continuous cough, a fever or is experiencing any loss of or change in their taste/smell, please do not send them to school.

If your child presents with any of these symptoms while at school, we will call you immediately. You should have your child tested and the whole household should self-isolate until you get the result.

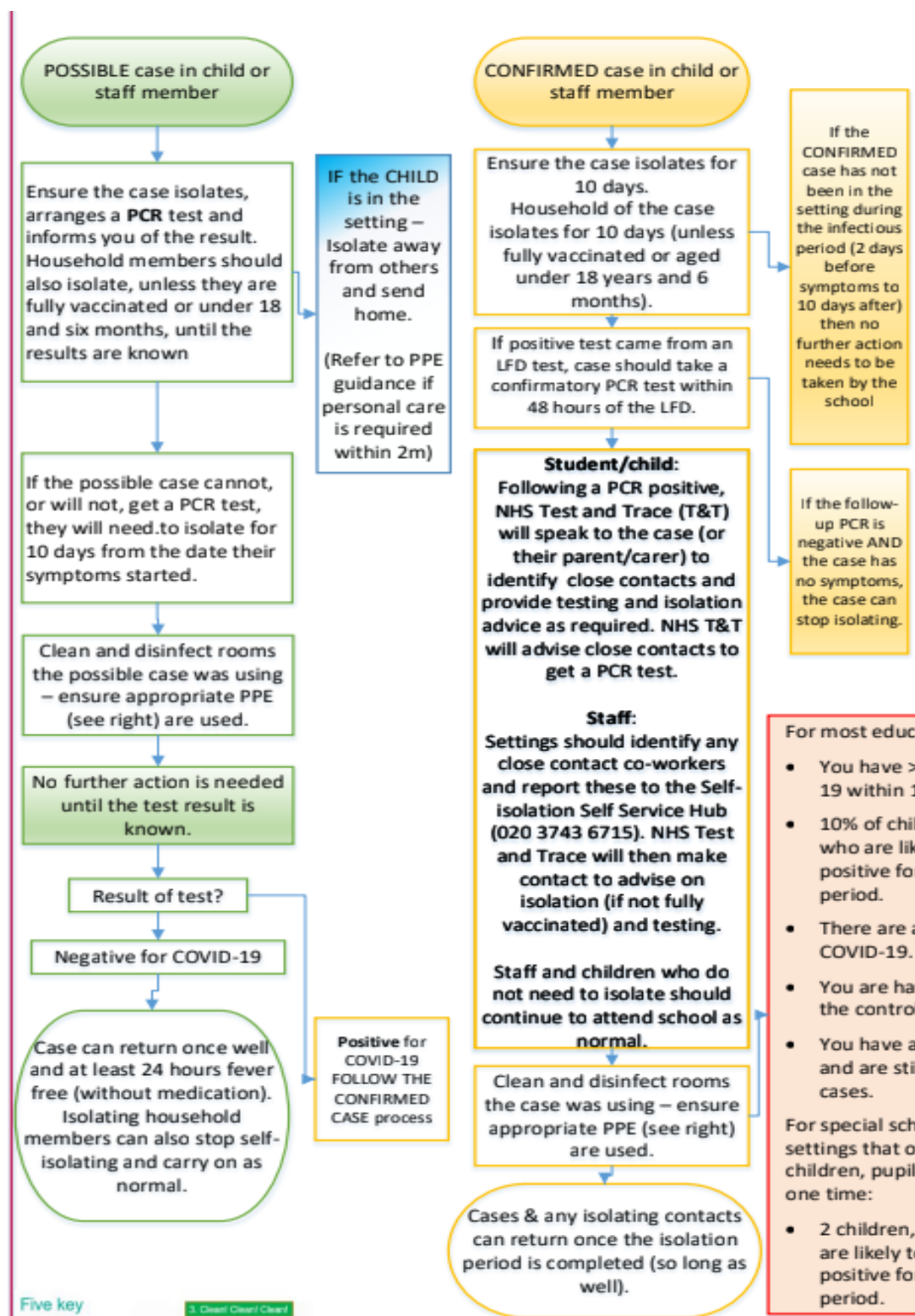
Further action will depend on the result of the test.

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ANY COVID RELATED COMMUNICATIONS (POSITIVE RESULTS OF TESTS): covid@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk



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Breakfast Club/After School Club

30 places available at Breakfast and After School Club.

Please ring or email the office at holy.cross.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk to book places **one week in advance**.



We cannot take bookings on the day.

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am and **children need to be in by 8am**. Arrivals after this time will not be admitted.

After School Club finishes at **6pm**.

Please ring **07398477727** when dropping off and picking up.

Drop off and collection to Breakfast Club/After School Club is at the main red doors to the church.

Have a lovely weekend!